

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Daniel W. Hawtof et al.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial No.:

Filing Date:

Group Art Unit: TBA

Title: CREATING SILICA
SOOT WITH A PLUG-
FREE SYSTEM

Examiner: TBA

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above captioned application and issuing a first office action on the merits, please enter this amendment, as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 26-31.

26. A method of forming soot for use in the manufacture of glass comprising:

- a) selectively delivering a preselected liquid from a group of liquids consisting of a liquid reactant or a second liquid to a combustion zone through a common conduit, wherein an atmosphere exposed to the combustion zone comprises an atmosphere of water contained in air ;
- b) changing from delivering the preselected liquid to the combustion zone to delivering the liquid not delivered during said step a) to the combustion zone, wherein said the liquid not delivered during said step a) is selected from the group of liquids consisting of the liquid reactant and the second liquid; and
- c) reacting said liquid reactant in said combustion zone to form the soot.